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EXAMINER

AILES, BENJAMIN A

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2442

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/501,779	Applicant(s) CLARK ET AL.	
	Examiner BENJAMIN AILES	Art Unit 2442	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 June 2010.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 48 and 50-65 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 48 and 50-65 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 July 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is in response to correspondence filed 30 June 2010.
2. Claims 48 and 50-65 remain pending.

Claim Objections

3. Claim 50 is objected to because of the following informalities: Claim 50 depends on claim 49, now canceled. For examination, claim 50 will depend on claim 48.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 48, 50-53, 57, and 59-62 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rollins (US 6,738,348 B1) in view of Choate (US 2001/0054026 A1).
5. Regarding claim 48, Rollins teaches a telecommunications connection process for a bandwidth-on-demand network (Rollins: Col 1, lines 6-7 and lines 12-13), the process comprising:

controlling, via an application server, use of a specified application for delivering data to a user on request (Rollins: Fig. 1, Col 2, lines 24-31, wherein an application server, e.g., a network service provider subsystem or NSP, component 12 in Fig. 1, controls the use of specified application, e.g., a user request to a network provider and

Art Unit: 2442

the corresponding response from network provider, and records calls made on the network using that application, e.g., provides access in response to the calls);

applying a billing process to connections established at the higher bandwidths but not at the first bandwidth (Rollins: Col 2, line 56 and lines 61-63, a surcharge rate), to generate a billing output, and, wherein the billing process records connections established on the network (Rollins: Col 4, lines 31-36), and also records calls which connections using one of the higher bandwidths make use of the specified application so that the billing process charges connections using one of the higher bandwidths (Rollins: Col 2, lines 45-48 and Col 3, lines 8-11, describe an output, e.g., a charge, is generated according to connections, e.g. increased use of bandwidth, to receive the application of ISP, Col 2, line 29; col. 2, line 65 – col. 3, line 14, use of a specific application at an increased bandwidth allocation).

Rollins teaches the billing process for different bandwidth usage with respect to certain applications, the bandwidth provided at different levels but does not explicitly teach aspects of: "make use of the specified application at a first charge rate and charges connections using one of the higher bandwidths which do not make use of the specified application at a second charge rate that is different from the first charge rate." However, in related art, Choate teaches on this aspect of charging for specific application usage through the utilization of an application metering method for monitoring usage of an application (e.g., software program, content file, component, product, etc.). Choate teaches the charging of a user based on specific application usage (p. 3, para. 0029), the usage of different applications are all considered to be

Art Unit: 2442

within the same bandwidth class and when placed in combination with Rollins, the “higher bandwidth” class as claimed. Choate teaches the utilization of an “Application Management Module” that monitors specific applications usage statistics (i.e. deployment and/or usage) and submits this information to a billing module that subsequently charges the user of the specific applications appropriately (p. 3, para. 0029). Therefore, Choate is found to teach within the scope of charging for the utilization of specific applications at different rates. One of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention would have found it obvious to implement a billing process with respect to specific application usage as taught by Choate in combination with the bandwidth allocation scheme set forth by Rollins. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to combine Rollins and Choate to provide an accurate method for application developers to extract appropriate payment from the application users (Choate, p. 1, para. 0005).

6. With respect to claim 50, Rollins teaches wherein a charge is also made to a second account when a connection is made making use of the said application server (Rollins: Col 5, lines 28-29 and lines 42-46, wherein a charge is made to a service provider for a surcharge).

7. With respect to claim 51, Rollins teaches wherein the charges to be made to the second account are determined by the information transmitted to the application server by the end users (Rollins: Col 3, lines 3-5 and lines 8-10, describe the charge to be determined by information transmitted to the application server, e.g., NSP , by the end users).

Art Unit: 2442

8. With respect to claim 52, Rollins teaches wherein the application server logs the activities of the end users and the information provided by the end users to determine the output to be generated (Rollins: Col 2, lines 66-67 and Col 3, lines 1-11, wherein an application server, e.g., NSP, logs the activities, e.g., request, downloading and submission, and the information, e.g., the bandwidth and the application, wherein the operation of logging is included in the operations of establishing connections and determining the charge during the time of surcharge, as in Col 5, lines 28-30).

9. With respect to claim 53, Rollins teaches wherein the end users interact with the application server such that the application server can log the activities of the end users (Rollins: Col 2, lines 66-67, Col 3, lines 1-11, describe the information from end users and the operations, including logging and billing, by the application server).

10. With respect to claim 57, Rollins teaches a billing process for a bandwidth-on-demand network (Rollins: Col, lines 8-11), the process comprising:

recording, via a billing engine connections established on the network (Rollins: Col 5, lines 38-46, describe different connections, wherein a billing system may be represented by a central office, component 18, and/or a network service provider subsystem, component 12, in Fig. 1);

controlling, via an application server, use of a specified application for delivering data to a user on request (Rollins: Fig. 1, lines 24-31, wherein an application server, e.g., a network service provider subsystem or NSP, component 12 in Fig. 1, controls the use of specified application, e.g., a user request to a network provider and the

Art Unit: 2442

corresponding response from network provider, and records calls made on the network using that application, e.g., provides access in response to the calls);

recording which of those connections established on the network using that application (Rollins: Fig. 1, lines 24-31, wherein an application server, e.g., a network service provider subsystem or NSP, component 12 in Fig. 1, controls the use of specified application, e.g., a user request to a network provider and the corresponding response from network provider, and records calls made on the network using that application, e.g., provides access in response to the calls), and

instructing the billing engine which connections made use of that application (Rollins, Col 5, lines 28-33, describe a billing engine, e.g., a NSP or a central office, computes the charge according to the connection information about the use of bandwidth), and

wherein connections using one of higher bandwidths are charged by the billing engine at different rates according to whether connections using one of the higher bandwidths make use of that application so that which of the different rates charged by the billing engine depends on whether or not that connection makes use of that application (Rollins, Col 2, lines 59-65), wherein connections are made available at a first low-bandwidth and at least one higher bandwidth (Rollins: Col 2, lines 36-42, imply the prior allocated bandwidth to be at a lower bandwidth).

Rollins teaches the billing process for different bandwidth usage with respect to certain applications, the bandwidth provided at different levels but does not explicitly teach aspects of: "the application of different rates dependant on the application used is

Art Unit: 2442

only applied to connections established at the higher bandwidths.” However, in related art, Choate teaches on this aspect of charging for specific application usage through the utilization of an application metering method for monitoring usage of an application (e.g., software program, content file, component, product, etc.). Choate teaches the charging of a user based on specific application usage (p. 3, para. 0029), the usage of different applications are all considered to be within the same bandwidth class and when placed in combination with Rollins, the “higher bandwidth” class as claimed. Choate teaches the utilization of an “Application Management Module” that monitors specific applications usage statistics (i.e. deployment and/or usage) and submits this information to a billing module that subsequently charges the user of the specific applications appropriately (p. 3, para. 0029). Therefore, Choate is found to teach within the scope of charging for the utilization of specific applications at different rates. One of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention would have found it obvious to implement a billing process with respect to specific application usage as taught by Choate in combination with the bandwidth allocation scheme set forth by Rollins. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to combine Rollins and Choate to provide an accurate method for application developers to extract appropriate payment from the application users (Choate, p. 1, para. 0005).

11. Regarding claim 59, Rollins teaches a process according to claim 57, wherein a charge is also made to a second account when a connection is made making use of the said application server (Rollins: Col 5, lines 28-29 and lines 42-46, wherein a charge is made to a service provider for a surcharge).

Art Unit: 2442

12. With respect to claim 60, Rollins teaches wherein the charges to be made to the second account are determined by the information transmitted to the application server by the end users (Rollins: Col 3, lines 3-5 and lines 8-10, describe the charge to be determined by information transmitted to the application server, e.g., NSP , by the end users).

13. With respect to claim 61, Rollins teaches wherein the application server logs the activities of the end users and the information provided by the end users to determine the charges to be made to the second account (Rollins: Col 2, lines 66-67 and Col 3, lines 1-11, wherein an application server, e.g., NSP, logs the activities, e.g., request, downloading and submission, and the information, e.g., the bandwidth and the application, wherein the operation of logging is included in the operations of establishing connections and determining the charge during the time of surcharge, as in Col 5, lines 28-30).

14. With respect to claim 62, Rollins teaches wherein the end users interact with the central application server using programming information having security measures to allow the central server to log the activities of the end users (Rollins: Col 2, lines 25-30 and Col 4, lines 39-41, describe the end users interacts with the central application server, e.g., a network service provider, wherein the central application server decides the access, i.e., a security measure, and logs the activates, e.g., request of bandwidth and downloading).

Art Unit: 2442

15. Claims 54-56, 63-65 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rollins and Choate, as applied to claims 48 and 57 above, in view of Kitze (US Pub. No. 2002/0194108 A1), and hereinafter Kitze.

16. Regarding claims 54 and 63, Rollins does not expressly disclose wherein the application server is a peer-to-peer file transfer controller. However, Kitze discloses wherein the application server is a peer-to-peer file transfer controller (Kitze: [0010], lines 1-4).

Nonetheless, the model of Rollins can be adapted to include the peer networks by connecting to the network service provider other clients or servers, for instance, and the network service provider subsystem can be used to transfer files (e.g., catalogs, Col 2, line 67). It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to combine the teachings of Rollins with the teachings of Kitze by including the peer networks, because the bandwidth on demand model of Rollins can be applied to different networking embodiments, including the peer networks.

17. With respect to claims 55 and 64, the claims are rejected for the same reasons as claims 54 and 63 above. In addition, Rollins teaches wherein the controller has means for recording user inputs (Rollins, Col 4, lines 41-43), and Kitze discloses user inputs relating to the quality of files available for transfer (Kitze: [0011], lines 4-7).

18. With respect to claims 56 and 65, the claims are rejected for the same reason as in claims 55, and 64 above. In addition, Kitze teaches wherein the outputs are adjusted according to the rated quality of the information accessed (Kitze: [0023], lines 8-10).

Art Unit: 2442

19. Claim 58 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rollins and Choate, as applied to claim 57 above, in view of Bowman-Amuah (US Patent No. 6345239 B1), and hereinafter Bowman-Amuah.

20. With respect to claim 58, Rollins does not disclose wherein connections making use of the application are charged at a lower rate than other connections. However, Bauman-Amuah discloses wherein connections using one of the higher bandwidths making use of the application are charged at a lower rate than other connections using one of the higher bandwidths but not making use of the application (Bowman-Amuah: e.g., Col 28, lines 52-53, wherein the lower rate is charged for promotion discount). It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to combine the teachings Rollins with the teachings of Bowman-Amuah by implementing the charge method according to the chosen services, because such a charge method may be useful to the bandwidth allocation under various service conditions (Bowman-Amuah, col. 28, ll. 52-3).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments, see Remarks, filed 30 June 2010, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 48-53, 57 and 59-62 under 35 USC 102(e) in view of Rollins (US 6,738,348 B1) have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Rollins (US 6,738,348 B1) in view of Choate (US 2001/0054026 A1).

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Benjamin Ailes whose telephone number is (571)272-3899. The examiner can normally be reached Monday-Friday, IFP Hoteling schedule.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Asad Nawaz can be reached on 571-272-3988. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2442

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/B. A. A./
Examiner, Art Unit 2442

/Asad M Nawaz/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2442